

enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2017.

The United States is strongly committed to Somalia's stabilization, and it is important to maintain sanctions against persons undermining its stability. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 6, 2017.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 85

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 85.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF JAIDEN BARTEE AND TORI PEREZ

(Mr. GARRETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today as we remember the lives of Jaiden Bartee and Tori Perez, ages 5 and 6 years old, who, as they stood with their mothers waiting for the schoolbus on the morning of March 30, were struck down and taken from this world far too soon by a passing truck.

Mr. Speaker, Members, there is no Scripture, no words, no thought poignant enough to address the loss of these mothers, of the Buckingham County, Virginia, community, of humanity of these two lives; but in what is the best effort that I can make, I ask that all of my colleagues and these Members of the Virginia delegation who join me to join in a moment of silence to recognize these two young people.

#### ATROCIOUS CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours on a day earlier this week, a small town in northwest Syria was atrociously attacked with chemical bombs. As a result, over 75 civilians died and over 20 children gasped for air, writhed in pain, and foamed at the mouth. They suffered dilated pupils, muscle spasms, and involuntary defecation.

Based on the state of this evidence, it appears that it was the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, who committed this heinous act against his people once again. The last time Assad com-

mitted such an act, in 2013, he agreed to eliminate his chemical weapons. However, it appears he lied, and he continues his sick aggression against his own people and our humanity.

From the first use of chemical weapons in World War I to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and now in Syria, chemical weapons epitomize the absolute horror of modern-day warfare. That is, of course, why they are outlawed and why their use is a war crime. That is also why anybody who uses them must be treated and penalized like a war criminal.

#### OUR WORK ON HEALTH CARE IS UNDONE

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Congress is leaving for Easter break with work undone. For 7 years, we have told the American people that we would repeal ObamaCare and replace it with something better, and we have legislation that provides that opportunity. It is not a perfect bill—no bill is. But President Trump has said this is our best and only chance to get this done.

The bill cuts taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars and reduces government by hundreds of billions, too. It keeps preexisting condition prohibitions and lets 26-year-olds stay on their parents' health care. But most importantly, it unshackles American families from government-forced mandates costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Simply put, it is an enormous improvement over the status quo.

My hope is we will be back next week before Easter. I know many of my colleagues are ready for the holidays, but we need to do what we said we would do: repeal ObamaCare and replace it with something better.

□ 1045

#### DEMAND FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE TRUMP- RUSSIA SCANDAL

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my constituents' demand for an independent investigation of the Trump-Russia scandal.

Since mid-November, this has been a major issue for the people I represent, who are deeply concerned about protecting democratic elections. Among their concerns are the following:

Changes last July to the Republican Party's platform that are beneficial to Russia, which the Trump campaign spearheaded.

A few days later, Trump's call on Russia to launch a cyber attack against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Trump's refusal to say anything negative about Vladimir Putin, such as his terrible record on human rights or his crackdown on dissent.

The intelligence community's consensus that Putin directed a campaign of weaponized information against Hillary Clinton.

And the implication of numerous Trump advisers in unseemly relations with Russia, including Michael Flynn, Jeff Sessions, Roger Stone, Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen, and Carter Page.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have watched as the House Intelligence Committee's investigation lapsed into confusion and obfuscation, obviously at the behest of the White House.

Last month, that committee canceled public hearings which would have included the testimony of former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates.

My constituents have watched President Trump, whose Presidential campaign is under FBI investigation, alternate between protestations that "Trump-Russia is a hoax" and repeated attempts to change the subject.

#### QUAPAW AREA COUNCIL GOLD LEVEL

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Quapaw Area Council, which, for the first time, was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America's Journey to Excellence program as a Gold Level Council, the highest award possible.

The Boy Scouts of America's Journey to Excellence program is designed to encourage excellence and reward success at all levels of scouting, measuring several indicators that include fiscal management, fundraising, youth advancement, youth camping, and membership recruitment.

As a fellow Scout, I am proud of the high standards our Scouts in Arkansas are setting. This achievement is a credit to the dedication of members of the council, countless volunteers, devoted parents, and committed Scouts.

On behalf of all Arkansans, congratulations. We look forward to following your continued success for generations of Scouts to come.

#### INVESTIGATE RUSSIA'S INVOLVE- MENT IN OUR NATIONAL ELEC- TIONS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I remember well the investigations that Congress undertook in the Nixon period—the Watergate investigations.

Frankly, I am appalled at the way in which this House is conducting its investigations. It is high time that we have an independent investigation.